

88 channels of 250 kbit/s each. Such partitioning would allow a plurality of channels to be transferred over the data connection in parallel. Continuing with the example, a personal computer connected via USB to the receiver would be able to take as input 20 of the 250 kbit/s channels in parallel.

In yet another embodiment, the receiver could break the incoming DVB-T datastream into channels of differing bandwidths. For example, the receiver could break a 22 Mbit/s datastream into five channels of 1 Mbit/s, 10 channels of 500 kbit/s, and 48 channels of 250 kbit/s. Such partitioning would also allow a plurality of channels to be transferred over the data connection in parallel. Continuing with the example, a personal computer connected via USB to the receiver would be able to take as input, in parallel, two channels of 1 Mbit/s, two channels of 500 kbit/s, and 8 channels of 250 kbit/s.

The fact that the channels received in parallel are of differing bandwidth offers advantages such as allowing operation to be tailored to fit user needs. For example, if a user is downloading a plurality of software packages, all channels could be 1 Mbit/s channels. If a user is reading a plurality of classified ads or messages, all channels could be 250 kbit/s channels. If, on the other hand, the user is simultaneously reading messages and downloading software, some channels could be 1 Mbit/s channels while others could be 250 kbit/s channels. Functionality such as this may be useful, for example, when the receiver performs filtering of the sort described above.

According to such embodiments, the receiver could perform the above-described filtering on the incoming DVB-T datastream. The content determined to be of interest to the user could be distributed to the user's personal computer or similar device over the data connection using the above-described channels.

An additional advantage of this functionality is that processing power in the personal computer or similar device is conserved. If all 22 Mbit/s of the incoming DVB-T datastream were forwarded to the computer, the computer's processor would need to expend cycles processing open IP streams dealing with all or most of the incoming blocks – even if these blocks dealt with content that was to be filtered out. In contrast, when filtering is performed by the receiver unit in the way described here, only the content of interest is forwarded to the computers over the data connection. Thus the processor only deals with open IP streams relating to this forwarded content and processor cycles are not wasted on IP streams related to blocks that are not of interest. Cutting down on processor use can mean power conservation. Power conservation can be particularly important with portable devices running off of battery power.